

to announce a new coal making policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the concerned agencies would be consulted before implementation of the policy and the time by which this is likely to be announced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to a new Coal Marketing Policy. A paper on the subject has been prepared and the views of State Governments on the paper have been invited. A decision on the proposals will be taken keeping in view all the suggestions received in this regard.

Setting up of a coal company in Orissa.

1206. DR. KARTIKESWARPATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for setting up of a coal company in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (b). The proposal for setting up of a new subsidiary coal company of Coal India Limited in Orissa is under consideration.

[Translation]

Prediction of Earthquakes

1207. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:
SHRI M.V.
CHANDRASEKHARA
MURTHY:
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI C.P.
MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian sub-continent is gradually drifting from ocean towards Asian tract with the result that the Himalayan mountain region is rising and there is possibility of frequent earthquakes in the entire Himalayan region;

(b) whether the earthquake in Uttar Pradesh on October 20, 1991 was due to this natural phenomena;

(c) if so, whether the Government had prior knowledge of the earthquake in U.P.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is a danger to Tehri Dam also from earthquakes;

(f) whether the Union Government propose to import the technology from the developed countries from prediction of earthquakes;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government propose to formulate any earthquake policy;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) the measures being contemplated by the Government for protecting the Himalayan region from earthquakes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Earthquake science has not developed to the extent that scientists can forecast or predict earthquakes.

(e) Seismic potential of the region has been taken into consideration for safe designing of the Tehri Dam.